



CITY OF CONCORD

New Hampshire's Main Street™

REPORT TO THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

From: Jennifer Kretovic, Chair of the Rules Committee
Date: November 14, 2025
Subject: Proposed Changes to the Rules of the City Council

RECOMMENDATION

Accept this report and adopt the proposed changes as set forth in the attached amendments to Rules of the City Council.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

The City Council's Rules Committee has been evaluating the current version of the "Rules of the City Council" to determine whether any adjustments or changes to these rules would assist the Council in conducting their meetings and other responsibilities. Having reviewed the rules and discussing the current operations of the Council, the Rule Committee is proposing a series of revisions to this document. A summary of the proposed changes are as follows:

Section 5: The Committee is proposing to expressly state that comments within a public hearing are to be limited to the item under consideration. This is consistent with the current rules and will ensure that the Mayor has a specific guideline for limiting discussion to relevant topics. The Committee believes that this change will lead to more efficient hearings that ensure that both the Council and the public remain focused on the issues to be considered at the hearing.

Section 6B: The Committee is proposing to exempt a Councilor from disclosing the "full extent of the conflict" when there are confidentiality concerns with making this "full" disclosure. We understand that some Councilors may have conflicts where the Councilor is not at liberty to disclose the exact nature of the relationship for professional, ethical, contractual or other legal reasons. In those instances, this rule would permit the Councilor to disclose the conflict in a more general manner that is consistent with other obligations that the Councilor may have to maintain confidentiality.

An additional change clarifies the language on the Councilor's disqualification from discussions or votes on matters where they have a conflict of interest.

Section 15: The Committee is suggesting a revision to this section that will state that a matter that was not timely filed under Section 15 may be considered by suspending the rules. This language does not substantively change the rules as suspension of the rules was already allowed under Section 19. This proposed change just clarifies that the right to suspend the rules applies to adding items for discussion at a Council meeting.

Section 21: The Committee is suggesting an added rule relating to the creation of ad-hoc committees. Specifically, this rule would codify the practice of allowing the Mayor to create and appoint ad-hoc committees to advise and make recommendation to the Council on various topics. The proposed rule, while new, does not change the current practices of the Mayor and City Council.